Paradigm Shifts are a part of life. Our Beliefs, wrapping around our "selves" like nets of pure nothing, can be dissolved in far less time than needed to create them, placing us into entirely new paradigms. Like entering the Land of Oz.

Village Idiot Shifts Paradigms

I AM. An idiot that is. But it isn't just me. Scientists and Theologians agree. Without a wall of credentials, credits and degrees, I am by nature a blooming idiot. The best kind! A wall-flowered self-taught philosopher, peaceably probing the sinuous veins and succulent underbellies of reality, looking to where life and its meanings come from and ultimately reside. Lacking writing credentials as well, I'll take my chances.

In the beginning was the WORD and the word was WATER. H2O. The Gods won't appear for a long, long time. Two hydrogen atoms bonded with an oxygen atom just 100 million years after the big bang. A blink of the cosmic eye! And out of that darkness arose H2O and her super-hero companions, the elements.

In chaotic flights across the Void from which they were born (I know, it's complicated) the elements and H2O filled IT with freshly moistened matter, recently freeze-dried, and the TAO. But once again, spiritual matters will appear after regular matters have their say. Each to their own time and true nature. We don't want to get ahead of our "*selves*".

Short long story, WATER and her companions rode the 10 Billion Light-year Express to roughly the chair you are sitting upon. Well, I hope you are sitting because we've only begun. Beginning with what was at hand - metaphorically speaking - and for another 3.8 billion years, WATER went to work every day, never complaining as she hammered away on and with and above and below, brewing a primordial life stew with magisterial grace. Never an easy task, she handled it the only way possible, multiple ways.

Volcanic pressure, heat, gravity, steam, ice, time, movement, rhythm and rhyme, harmony and balance, beginners' zest and the smothering stools of ants and giants all contributed, until elemental matter and eventually life itself, in its multiple and manifold forms roamed across this home called Earth. Well WATER didn't call it that, Man did. Concepts like Gaia and Mother Earth are helpful in expressing these ideas, but "Ancient Sages" (and I'm not naming names) got the idea that - Earth, Air, Fire, and Water - were all on an equal level. The Big Four. They are not.

WATER is both - OF and ABOVE - the other three. Indeed, she is above all of the other "essentials" of planetary existence. WATER alone is LIFE and this miracle of a molecule has been running the show since Day One! From birth through death you are little more than a traveling sack of WATER.
WATER flows through you daily giving you what you don't even know you need. Even DNA cannot survive (or function) without WATER, and if perceived correctly WATER is the ONLY living creature actually inhabiting Planet Earth! She is a Molecular Monarch ruling her roost in the most mild-mannered of ways. Exactly as you would expect her to behave, in "apparent dispassion" towards all of her sorts, and all of their little sorts and resorts. Here in her nest. One among millions of nests in billions of galaxies throughout the Void . She is the Mother of all mothers with no need for a Father. Deal with that and you're half-way back home.

But first - OUR WATER - needs a real name. A name of honor and stature among us. We who are of and a part of this natural mystery. TRUTH simply IS. It is man who gives IT purpose. So I, The Village Idiot, propose we call her The HYDROPOTHISS. Or the THISS for short. And to make it official, I shall name this "new theory of water" … The HYDROPOTHISS Hypothesis.

Now I sense a scientist or theologian present and tensing, in anticipation of refuting my simplistic premises. Allow me to add fodder to your fires, wind to your sails (or sales), and ammunition into your holsters. It is not I you fight against but your *"selves"* and very reason. To begin with The THISS is NOT a Sphere. That would imply a Euclidean form, a man-made object, if only in the mind still a "thing", and thus apart from the man.

This HYDROPOTHISS - which for billions of years has enveloped our planet, AND for which all planetary life depends upon for its survival - is the one essential FORCE to be found in all living things, from the first formed cells and the smallest of seeds, on through the magnificent orchestra called the human body and the world we inhabit. WATER is the one and only, abiding, residing, perpetually breathing and rebirthing life-form here on Planet Earth. You might think of her as, "The Eternal Maternal".

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Perhaps the "concept of a theory" is what buffets your balls? Theories need weight and substance. No matter. The better allusion anyway would be a paradigm, and a Paradigm Shift is what we seek! Back to Ancient Greece we fly, back into time. Who knew it so easy? Past 2500 years of revelations to mankind. Past Aristotle, Plato and Socrates, to the very first of Western Man's Philosopher Sages, Thales, of Miletus.

It was Thales who first proposed that WATER was the essential element. Or not. No writings of Thales survive, and his disciples went off in various directions. As did much of the Western Canon of thought and reasoning. Mathematical wonders enthused our newfound intellects with concepts and theories able to be handheld and proven. The touchy-feely aspects of existential enlightenment were too often ignored by newer sciences, or suppressed under the slowly solidifying spiritual practices of Western man.

Meanwhile, on the other side of Planet Earth different spiritual practices had developed, foremost among these the philosophy of the TAO. A spiritual practice that emphasizes living in harmony with the natural world. Being in the present and realizing your place in it. Going with the flow. Practicing compassion, rejecting excesses, finding peace inwardly while expressing it outwardly into the world. Implying that there are many ways to your own fulfillment that do not harm others. These are common aspirations found in spiritual and humanist philosophies across the THISS, and a significant "tell" into what the HYDROPOTHISS is trying to tell us.

Since man began thinking, he has sought to understand his place in the cosmos. Numerous cultures across time and from east, west, and in-between have created elaborate cosmologies with varied and assorted Gods, or spiritual enlightenments, expressing natural phenomena actually created by and under the auspices of WATER. Show me your Gods and their awesome powers, and I will show you the living, breathing nature of the HYDROPOTHISS. The multi, triune, and monotheistic Gods of our cultural forefathers all point toward an unfathomable "oneness", uniting us with their particular Gods or states of mind. The TAO promises this state of awareness, this natural unity perceived in all things, without the need for higher authorities or powers telling us what to do or think.

The TAO flows from Eastern Antiquity thousands of years before Thales, and sees the world as flawless and flowing in cycles and rhythms, as naturally as WATER. The Asian concept of Chi energy, flowing through and about us, offers a similar awareness of this hidden unity surrounding us. The problems of mankind are NOT with mankind's "basic character", but with his perceptions, and in his understandings, which are flawed and in need of major adjustments.

Mankind, alone among all of creation, perceives and then plays goods against evils, rights against wrongs, in linguistic, conceptually internalized illusions of what is actually a very simple and beautiful world. A world composed of and orchestrated by WATER as it manifests the TAO, effortlessly and endlessly creating the means to and assorted varieties of LIFE. Look in a mirror if you don't believe me.

Toward understanding the TAO, I highly recommend reading Lin YuTang's 1948 book The Wisdom of Lao-Tse. An engaging and in-depth assessment of the TAO and its two main proponents, Lao-Tse and Chang-Tse, embodying the essence of their teachings. Jump cut now to Mr. Theodor Schwenk and his book Sensitive Chaos, published by Rudolf Steiner Press, London, 1965. As a disciple of Steiner's early 20th-Century organic, holistic, educational, and spiritual philosophies, Schwenk's Sensitive Chaos is a rhapsodic dive into the realms of WATER.

Schwenk describes how WATER creates streams within streams, and membranes where they touch. Peaceful eddies within turbulent streams, over time folding into tubes. Tubes turning into hearts, and ears, even your brain over the eons. Your personal brain. The one reading this now. And as they say in the TAO, you are not the same person who began this sentence. But I digress. A habit of idiots.

Unlike chaologists who focus fearlessly on fractals and dynamic systems, looking for hidden truths to the chaos of the cosmos. My kind of folks. But I digress again. Schwenk goes on to show how speed, size, rhythmic pulses, and meandering movements across eons provide an endless bag of tricks and self-reflective actions that WATER takes to create, replicate, and support life. She displays a repetitive memory and the desire for growth. Her paths are traced into shoulder-blade scrawls and the oppressive stresses of tumultuous squalls. Two of WATER's many diverse and magnificent awes. Her powers and methods appear only as limited as her secrets remain undiscovered. But She is on it. Have faith.

As an idiot, my insights often arrive unexpectedly and are quickly refolded into my own laundered reality. I believe The THISS's methods are somewhat similar. Perhaps you're familiar with the Belousov-Zhabotinsky (BZ) reaction (as most chaologists would be), and which John Briggs illuminates in his 1992 book Fractals, The Patterns of Chaos. Briggs shows how fractals and their strange, self-similar ways have changed our conceptions of reality over the past 70 years. Imagine what the HYDROPOTHISS thinks of such "new truths"?!

Actually, as the Village Idiot, I believe I will. But these are my truths, not yours. You will need to seek your own truths. That is my first "lesson". My second is that The THISS has been jerking us around for a long time! That, is simply how IT is done. Well, at least ONE of the ways. Again, if you prefer, this is a paradigm not a theory. I'll leave it to the enthused scientists and avid theologians to follow through on these matters. I'll be in the bar or upon a hill. Good views. Nothing special.

The HYDROPOTHISS has been at IT for a long time, folks. Hi-jinks, more or less. One day it's a two-step or a waltz, and the next we see raging mobs defending various paradigms and flailing across her aching multiple bosoms, like over-stimulated, argumentative children. I imagine many mothers have known that feeling across the Ages of Mankind and his kind. Actually, I find it amazing how little of the TAO has been well understood by Western Man, with his gifted, variegated, and unique brain.

Call me an idiot, but no one of lasting import in Western culture has ever understood the deeper meanings, let alone the powers of the TAO. Prove me wrong, but from medieval mystics to Germanic philosophers, well-mulled or not, you will not find the TAO. You will find references to "oriental thinking", but never a good understanding of the TAO. Read between the lines of the Western Canon of philosophy, and you will find Western minds conceiving Western wisdoms, but not those of the TAO. Multiple enlightenments in Western sciences and theologies, yet never the TAO. Carl Jung came close, but also knew little of the TAO. Yet many have known implicitly its more subtle truths. Witches and Heretics among them.

The HYDROPOTHISS speaks in many voices. Veils are raised as stages are once again prepared. The THISS is a manifestation of the TAO. The TAO is the WAY of the Void. You are as much a manifestation of the TAO as a blade of grass. This is why it is said, when you know the TAO, you see a blade of grass as a six-foot Golden Buddha. The HYDROPOTHISS has been growing and revealing herself to mankind for millions of years. How marvelous you, to witness once again another revelation. Very rare. No big deal.

The multi, triune, and monotheistic Gods of our cultural forefathers all point toward an unfathomable "oneness", uniting us with their particular Gods or states of mine. The TAO promises this state of awareness, this natural unity perceived in all things, without the need for higher authorities or powers telling us what to do, or think.

Now, the average sailor would say, "So what? Tell me something new, you idiot!" And this is natural. The HYDROPOTHISS has progressively provided insights and understandings into her ways as the various needs of nature and mankind have arisen. This is called Mutual Arising, and another concept of the TAO. As is Wu Wei, the art of "effortless action", as expressed by Alan Watts, a popular influencer on Oriental thought in the 1960s, and continuing to BE in 2026. The power of concepts, transformed by the media. Rave on Alan Watts. Speaking of which, and of which I will not expand, it would be wise to read Marshall McLuhan's 1969 Playboy magazine interview. He exhibits strong, enlightened thinking, which is alive with philosophical fire, though he the progenitor has long since moved along.

The TAO is a daily walk, not a goal to be reached. When mankind's laws are chiseled into hard rules, they cause competing interpretations, temptations, civil conflicts, and oppressive, controlling forces to mutually arise. To counter these competing tendencies of man, the Taoist Sage calls for far fewer laws and far more of the TAO to flow through and energize your inner being. Your "self". To seek understanding, harmony and mutual benefit for all of creation, in each new situation encountered. Gifting to all without stipulations. And NOT to live under multiple outdated and unjust laws, mandated upon you by higher authorities, or as the result of some "manufactured fear" of our varied neighbors, near or far.

I'll work toward my final conclusions, but again these are my truths, not yours, yet. I believe that the HYDROPOTHISS is as the TAO describes. A *"suchness"* of which all living things are unique parts. Individual "types" with each displaying varied, but similar identifiable natures. As true for various grasses as for the variegated "types" of Man. The fields of the West grew many varieties of men. While Native Americans grew from their early East Asian roots, the European cultures developed completely different mindsets based on different locations, reasonings, and theologies.

Luther Standing Bear of the Lakota people spoke to this in his 1933 book, Land of the Spotted Eagle. As a Red Man, Luther tells of his Lakota *"self"* riding the Children's Train to Carlisle, Pennsylvania, for re-education classes. This 11-year-old brave, bravely faces his perceived impending death at the hands of the White Man. A culmination of the ravages he has witnessed since the 1870s. Half of those children never did return from this tragic attempt at changing the natural way. In this case, the Red Man's ways.

If any race of men knew the TAO, it was the Native American. For 12,000 years, these cultures had existed and adapted to nature, and listened to the THISS. Developing an awareness of their roles within and as part of the natural world, which served them well for an eon. Yet we also must remember, the HYDROPOTHISS has seen many, many eons.

Ravages suffered then and now in 2026, to all races of men and many forms of nature, are in great part attributable to Western Man's blurred paradigms. Zealous thinkers and seekers have, and I imagine always will find success in generating isms and schisms which have the power to and HAVE bestialized, brutalized, and belittled the basic human for thousands of years, and across multiple continents. All the more if you are small and still, without a strong offensive campaign, like women and children. This is a spreading cancer of "sorts" among the races of men. And a concern that the THISS is actively addressing as we speak. Well, communicate. With words. Like this.

As in sports, a good defense is helpless without a strong, offensive campaign. When WISDOM, the feminine and balancing influence within the THISS could no longer be a yin to man's yang, its presence conveniently disappeared from the hearts of too many good men, thirsty for their own KNOWLEDGE and POWER. And then chaos ensued. Show me your Hall of Heroes and the problem becomes self-evident.

Male Authoritarian Structures have an unnatural, baked-in hardness, with an expressed and refined dispassion for we humans, especially women, while holding onto a peculiarly possessive passion for changing people to fit its conceptions. How silly. This is the exact opposite of the THISS's motives, which are to love us equally and dispassionately for who we are, not how we can serve a higher power. The THISS's wisdom is displayed in its equity to all that are in its embrace.

Authority Figures, Thought Leaders, and Influencers in Church, Government, Business, Science and the Media, need to generate new paradigms for the future we already inhabit. Paradigms that are based on the needs of all the complex life forms comprising the THISS. Circle of life coprolite so to speak. We are now privy to privies of immeasurable knowledge. GNOSIS. But Knowledge is not WISDOM, and the THISS needs its second half.

All religions already uphold WATER's sacredness. If WE, these miraculous, magical, mystical, material, and maternal molecules, can conceive of our "selves", and of all life on Planet Earth as part of this singular HYDROPOTHISS; and of all our doings as Sacred and Holy, embodying within our "selves" the highest principles and aspirations of all religions; then like Little Gods, we would NOT need Bigger Ones. In addition, the 90/10 rule would most certainly apply. Ha! Hmmm.

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… This is the exact opposite of the THISS's motives, which are to love us equally and dispassionately for who we are, not how we can serve a higher power.

Keep your "tithe" of 10%, Ye Little Gods. Then give 90% of your wealth back in the spirit of grace, to improve the body. If money be your wealth, be generous. If love be your wealth, be about it. Even you can do this. Miracle of Miracles, little you! But invest wisely, little doves. Be WISE in all your ways and pay IT forward. This also is The WAY.

So perhaps this too will be a fool's quest, beyond even the bounds of the Village Idiot. Yet one must attempt to uphold the stature of the office! And so I press on to my final premises. There is one individual in the Western Canon, who I believe came closest in successfully manifesting the TAO, and more specifically "The Eternal Maternal". That individual would need to be, Jesus, of Nazareth. Conveniently, he lived at about 0 AD.

The boon of enlightenment which Jesus embodies, and which the TAO by its nature cannot favor, but by its being grows, is this internalized power of unconditional and abiding LOVE. To stay in the realms of man, it is a personalized "*gratefulness*" for the native grace that is being constantly bestowed upon us. Like mother and child. A beat for a beat. A repeating pattern as old as life. The rhythms of water carrying lives and loves across time and space. Waves of interactions that create more waves, as well as interference patterns, which certainly arise, but if viewed from multiple perspectives and levels can allow unseen harmonies to be discovered. LOVE is a little like particle physics, with "*gratefulness*" acting as the attractive principle. Keeping it all together (family, faith, society, etc.) and doing the work as naturally as possible. Jesus didn't invent ABIDING LOVE but he gave it a paradigm shift. He proclaimed a God of Infinite Grace, and offered a Paradise to all of the inhabitants of Planet Earth. So what went wrong? Once again, man gets in the way, but not in the ways you might think.

Jesus was a Heretic and a Rebel. A real Troublemaker. He spoke truth to power, and love to fear. He railed against man-made hierarchies designed to control and repress individuals and troublesome groups. He opposed the hypocrisy of authoritarian regimes and their ill-gotten powers being used to impose unjust social and spiritual laws and ideas upon the common man, or woman. He championed diversity, equity, and inclusion, while lambasting a system designed to press hard upon the average person the will of an overbearing hierarchy and its out-of-touch elites.

Jesus pressed his thoughts in taverns, on hillsides, and along byways. He preached an unconditional love of all, including self, neighbors, and enemies. And like plenty of prophets, heretics, and rebels before and after, he got himself killed for his troubles. Jesus saw through the illusions that surround us and the myths and stories we allow to inhabit our brains. The Jesus story reminds us that paradigms can change. In fact, paradigm shifts are a part of life. Our beliefs, wrapping around our *"selves"* like nets of pure nothing, can be dissolved in far less time than needed to create them, placing us into entirely new paradigms. Like entering the Land of Oz.

The copyright on Jesus ran out in 33 AD, and for 200 years his words generated spiritual explorations NOT based on the writings of Paul, but rather on the lived, internalized experiences of those early believers in the original words of Jesus, the man. I call them the Gnostic Wonder Years, where there was a spreading of the basic universal love message of Jesus, unaffiliated with any organized hierarchy. This was before Jesus became "institutionalized", some 300+ years after his death. It was then that the more stoic and stern, the more aggressive and acquisitive "types" within Western culture and mindset, began running with a revised version of Jesus and in the wrong direction. What could possibly go wrong? His enlightened paradigm of a universal "unconditional love", morphed into a "we've got him" and "he's on our team", mindset.

Later on, it transitioned into an either/or proposition to the world, based on multiple and anti-equal, antithetical, and antiquated, male-dependent, and male-designed, authoritarian structures. These structures of power and control have taken many forms and exercised vast powers for thousands of years in Western culture and upon the Western mindset, and therefore upon the rest of the world. The Radical Jesus of unconditional love has been repressed, while the loving Baby/God and Protector/Savior images have held us rapt and wrapped our attention into believing in a specific interpretation of Jesus. A far more complacent and subservient creation than the original, living, breathing Jesus, while corrupting his original message.

Time and again over the ages, institutions of formalized religion have aligned with other major power bases, including the planet's economic, political, and military hierarchies, to exploit the raw powers of mankind against mankind, generating what writer and social critic Guy Debord called, "The Society of the Spectacle", and we the people its duped inhabitants. The "Spectacle" generates and feeds upon good vs. evil and us vs. them paradigms. It needs the world's "haves" to abuse the world's "have-nots", to achieve its goal: Growth of the Current Ruling Classes. Wrapping us in a world of illusions; generating a perpetual fear of others; and drip-feeding us with a never-ending desire for personal, family, and/or professional gain. Whatever is needed to keep us clueless and complacent.

The "Spectacle" has evolved as needed over the ages. For the past 150+ years, it has created a capitalist/consumerist over-consumptive society. Do we all need F150 trucks? Probably not. Do we all need fewer wars and abuse of the common men and women around the world? Probably yes. So riddle me this, good and gracious, hopeful and prosperous people of the West. Why don't you stop clinging to Jesus, like a drunkard to a lamppost, and perceive him as the guidepost he is, directing you forward towards the TAO and a fuller awareness of man's ability to love?

Why does your canon of hymns to your Jesus speak all of love and oneness, compassion and joy, yet all of your histories show sciences and theologies, continuously, hubristically, descending us into wars upon wars? Death spirals of centuries' duration. Subjugation of female voices, their bodies, and their ideas. Fear of the other. FEAR in general. The Eternal Maternal does not approve. The THISS doesn't care. "Just some peace and quiet, please. That'll do."

If what you want from me, The Village Idiot, is a short story and a little advice, then I will gladly give it. Go and actually learn the lessons of the TAO, then go and re-invent a new Jesus, 2.0. We need to re-orient our *"societies"* and our *"selves"* as best we can. Trust me, it will take paradigm shifts and an all-encompassing love to get this right. Learn to abide with one another. Seek wisdom, balance, harmony, time, and patience. But not too much, because everyone's T&P seems to be running out.

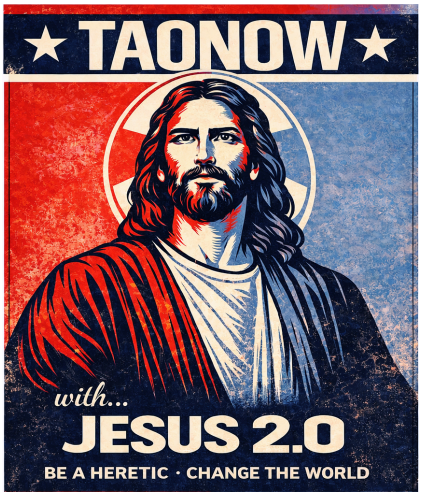
Gather at the WATERS EDGE (metaphorically speaking here, people) and plunge into this, The HYDROPOTHISS. Feel its loving embrace. It feels comfortable because Every Soul already inhabits this Ever So. Some call it Paradise, others Hell, depending on circumstances. But It's still the same old landmarks, spiritual goals, and many of the same Old Hymns.

Those wisdoms and praises are even more relevant when seen in the encompassing light of a living, breathing THISS, and this universal unity we share with all of creation. Believe in the THISS and you'll be spreading the TAO's abundance in very little time. LOVE is our standard issue, folks, and we've received all the training we need to create a new vision of the world. Go forward into The HYDROPOTHISS. Paradigms are meant to shift us to higher levels of enlightenment. In Dylan's words, don't follow leaders, tend to your parking meters. TIME is a precious and ticking commodity and the future is upon us. Infrastructures, technologies, innovations, and smarter brains than mine are actively working on these matters. But the special ingredient, the secret sauce, is that we all need to play our parts in this, the THISS, and in the TAO. Until then, I bid you adieu, and TAONOW.

Sincerely,

-The Village Idiot

Note to the Over-Enthused: As you might surmise, I don't seek attention or fame, especially in today's world. And if I do, I can always write a letter. Go find your own *"selves"* and let the thoughts of me be like a breeze. Or perhaps a tumbleweed seed, looking for some water. Trying to grow roots. TAONOW *with* Jesus2.0 isn't a new religion or a radical movement. It's a personal awareness and a new attitude. BELIEVING in something different. Like crossing invisible fences or remembering a long-forgotten home. It's easy. Just close your eyes, click your heels three times, and begin seeing the world anew. Alive in your own gifted, variegated, and unique brains. Until then, PEACE ON my friends. -V.I.



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